



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

W. C. HENDERSON, FISH AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE OFFICIAL TO
RETIRE; ALBERT M. DAY TO SUCCEED

Closing a career of Government service which began in 1897, Walter C. Henderson, assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior, will retire on November 30, 1942, because of ill health, Secretary Harold L. Ickes announced today.

Albert M. Day, chief of the Service's Division of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration since its inception in 1938, has been named to succeed Mr. Henderson.

"Because of Mr. Henderson's thorough knowledge of the Service and all lines of its activities and of its personnel, gained over his extended period of employment, his retirement will be a distinct loss to the Department," Secretary Ickes said. "His practical suggestions for the solution of the many problems that continually presented themselves in the administration of the work, have been of great service both to me and to Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Director of the Service."

Mr. Henderson was born in Chelsea, Mass., on July 6, 1876, and was educated in the Chelsea and Somerville public schools and in Boston University Law School from which he was graduated in 1903. He had already entered the Federal Service and was employed in the Customs Service of the Treasury Department from 1897 until 1907, when he was appointed law clerk in the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. Later he became assistant to the Solicitor of that Department and on December 1, 1916, Mr. Henderson transferred to the Bureau of Biological Survey as Assistant Chief. In 1927 he was made Associate Chief and upon the consolidation in 1940 of the Biological Survey with the Bureau of Fisheries to form the present Fish and Wildlife Service, he was made Assistant Director.

"Having been connected with the former Bureau of Biological Survey since 1916, Mr. Henderson's service," observed Dr. Gabrielson in commenting on the retirement of his colleague, "has been coextensive with its administration of the migratory-bird treaty act and its expanded work with the States in the cooperative control of predatory animals and injurious rodents."

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"During his 26 years of service, Mr. Henderson made tours of inspection of field offices in many States and in Alaska and forwarded good relations of the Bureau with officials enforcing State game and fur laws, and with sportsmen and naturalists through attendance at their conventions. The better to qualify himself for his work, Mr. Henderson pursued a course in biological sciences at George Washington University where he was given the A. B. degree in 1926. In school or out, he was ever a student for the pure love of increasing his knowledge. Informed, even-tempered, and judicial, he was an ideal administrative officer, who will be missed throughout the Service."

Scientific societies of which Mr. Henderson is a member include the American Ornithologists' Union, American Forestry Association, National Conservation Association, Cooper Ornithological Club, American Society of Mammalogists, Baird Ornithological Club, the National Geographic Society, and the Biological Society of Washington, D. C. He is also a member of the bar of the U. S. Supreme Court.

Albert M. Day, who succeeds Mr. Henderson, thus becomes Assistant Director of the organization in which he was first employed in 1919 as a temporary field assistant in rodent control work in Wyoming. With the exception of a year's leave, he has been continuously connected with the Service.

Mr. Day was born in Humboldt, Nebraska, in 1897, and received his B. S. degree from the University of Wyoming in 1922 where he majored in Animal Husbandry. During the first World War he was in the Signal Service. In 1920 Mr. Day became leader of rodent control work in Wyoming, and in 1922 he was appointed junior biologist and acted as district leader in the Wyoming-Nebraska district.

On July 1, 1928, he became associate biologist and assumed charge of both predatory animal and rodent control operations in Wyoming. Two years later he was transferred from the field to Washington, D. C., to assist in administration of the Division of Predatory Animal and Rodent Control. On July 1, 1934, when the Division of Predatory Animal and Rodent Control and Game and Bird Conservation were combined to form the Division of Game Management, Mr. Day was placed in charge of the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control Section.

In 1938, when Federal cooperation with States in wildlife restoration had been made possible by the Pittman-Robertson Act, Mr. Day was appointed chief of a new division formed to administer the work. Early in 1941, when President Roosevelt requested that a liaison officer from the Fish and Wildlife Service be appointed to cooperate with defense agencies, Secretary Ickes designated Mr. Day for this additional duty.

"Mr. Day, who is an expert in his field, has demonstrated unusual ability in the inauguration of new work, and has at all times proved to be an executive of exceptional capacity and excellent judgment," declared Secretary Ickes. "He has covered many parts of the Nation during his various assignments as a specialist on wildlife problems and this varied experience well qualifies him for his new duties as an assistant director of the Fish and Wildlife Service."

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